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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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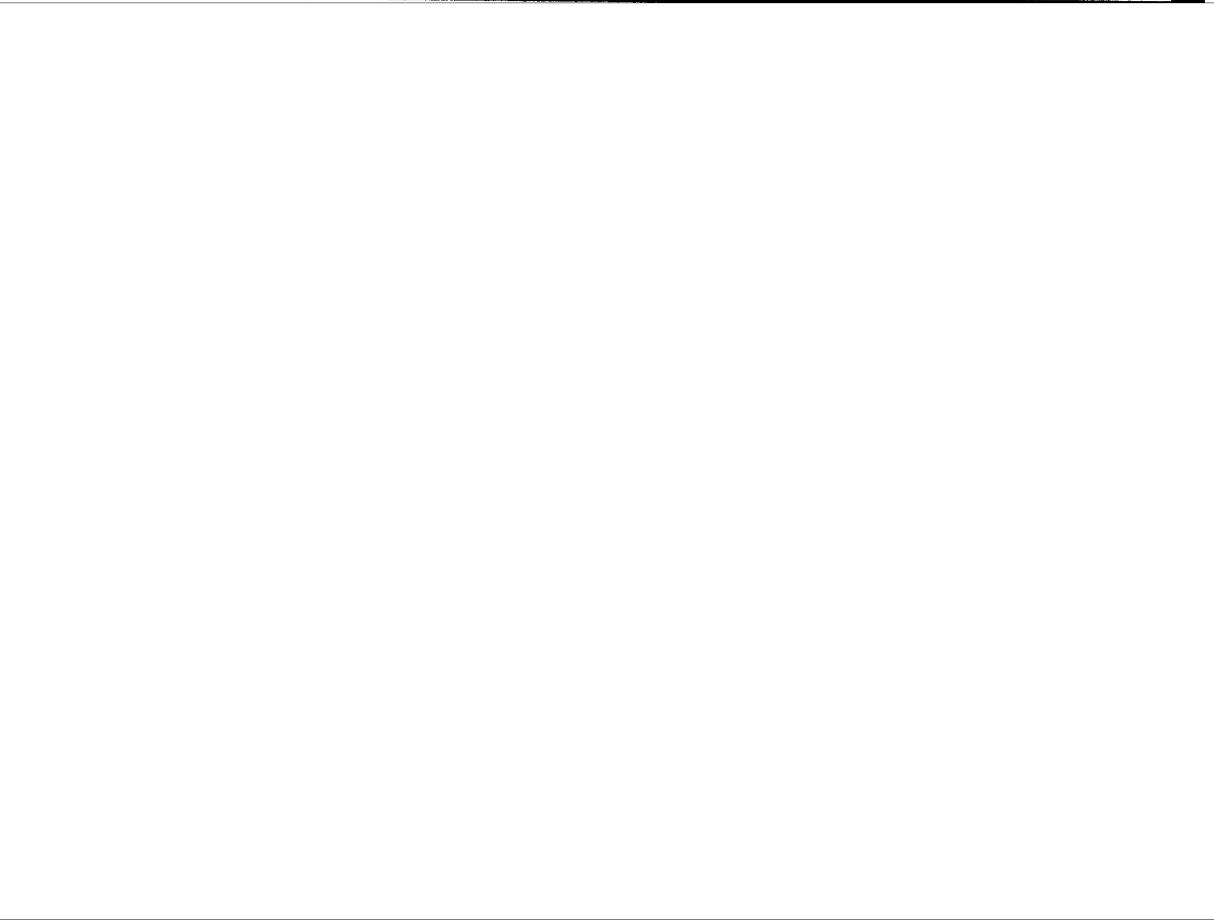
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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A. Unit History

50X1 [redacted] source learned that the 41st Armd Arty Regt was activated about 1950 or 1951 at Chojnice. However,

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he had no knowledge as to whether all subordinate units of the 41st Armd Arty Regt were activated at the same period or whether these subordinate units existed prior to the activation of the regiment.¹

50X1 [redacted] the 41st Armd Arty Regt was originally commanded by a Major Lewanowski (fnu) who was relieved by a Major Somof (fnu) during October 1952.

Until November 1952, the Hv Tk Bn was commanded by a Capt Wiktor Kuczynski. In November 1952, Capt Biegus, (fnu) who came from an unknown armored unit possibly located at Czarne (Hammerstein N 53-41, E 16-56), was assigned as battalion commander vice Capt Kuczynski, who was then assigned duties as battalion executive officer.

About 2 May 1953, the 41st Armd Arty Regt with all its subordinate units moved from Chojnice to Czarne on permanent change of station by rail and vehicle with the bulk going by rail. The entire troop movement was accomplished in one day. The distance from Chojnice to Czarne was estimated at 80 km. Source had no knowledge of the reason for the movement except that perhaps the training area at Czarne was much more conducive to armored training and contained several heavy caliber MG's and artillery firing ranges.

B. Training and Maneuvers

1. Regimental Level Training Aspects

a. Recruit Training

50X1 [redacted] recruits began to arrive at the 41st Armd Arty Regt, in small groups for recruit training, anywhere from October to December of each year. [redacted] the period from November to February of each year to be the 50X1 lowest point of a unit's combat readiness, in that members of the oldest year class were being demobilized and members of the new year class were being inducted and processed for recruit training.

The 41st Armd Arty Regt usually sent one officer and two NCO's to the several military regional commissions to escort the inductees to the regiment. Civilian passenger trains were utilized to transport the recruits, who occupied one or two reserved cars. The 41st Armd Arty Regt usually activated a recruit battalion for the purpose of administering and training these recruits. An unknown number of officers and NCOs from the regiment were temporarily assigned to the recruit battalion as instructors.

Upon completion of their recruit training and oath of service, which occurred during the latter part of January or during February each year, the recruit battalion was deactivated and the recruits assigned directly to subordinate units of the regiment. An unknown number of recruits were sent each year to the Armd NCO School of the 9th Ind Med Tk Regt at Slupsk (Stolp N 54-27, E 17-02) and to AAA, Engr, and Signal NCO schools [redacted]

50X1 [redacted] Upon completion of their NCO schooling, these recruits usually returned to the regiment and replaced those members of the oldest class who were scheduled for demobilization.

b. Tank Maintenance Training

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At least once a week all tanks and SP guns were lubricated by the crews and inspected by the units' technical officers and commanders. Each tank and SP gun had a maintenance booklet, into which the tank commander entered the number of hours the tank engine idled and was driven, the types of terrain over which the tank was driven, and the dates and types of lubrication performed.

Regarding the authorized number of hours an engine could be driven.

[redacted] unit commanders and technical officers were governed by different directives, according to whether the engine-hour or tank-use aspect was paramount. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] each exploitation tank (see section B, 2, b, (1) of this report for a definition of this term) normally underwent a thorough maintenance after being driven from 250 to 300 engine hours. Company technical officers would then inspect it and decide whether it could be driven an additional 200 engine hours; but a tank could never be driven more than 500 engine hours before undergoing maintenance. On the other hand, a regimental or battalion commander conducting tactical tank training had no power to extend the number of engine hours per month for this purpose. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] the Armored Branch of Service of the Polish Army designated this number of hours per month or other period of time for tanks and SP guns, and [redacted] this monthly period was from 250 to 300 hours. Technical officers frequently inspected the "exploitation" tanks during training and verified the number of engine hours driven on each; and tank commanders were liable to punishment if their tanks showed more engine hours than they were authorized to be driven for the specified period of one month.

[redacted] tanks and SP guns requiring a comprehensive type of maintenance were to be sent to a tank repair unit at the 41st Armd Arty Regt at Czarne and possibly to a tank repair factory.² [redacted] no direct knowledge of any tanks being sent to tank repair factories for a comprehensive type of maintenance.

Source could not give any information concerning the year of manufacture of the tanks and SP guns in the regiment. This information was not shown either in the maintenance booklet or on the tank itself. [redacted] 50X1

c. Night Training and Practice Alerts

[redacted] the 41st Armd Arty Regt did not conduct any tactical training during hours of darkness other than practice alerts. [redacted] several night practice alerts were called. During all alerts, all tank crews normally assembled on a nearby training field, while tanks were left at the tank park and their motors not started. The battalion assembly lasted about several hours, during which the troops were inspected by unit commanders for proper equipment and general state of readiness and then dismissed.

d. Maneuvers³.

[redacted] the 41st Armd Arty Regt had never participated in any maneuver as a regiment. He knew that battalion level intra-regimental exercises were held at various times but could not give any further details.

e. Rail Movement of Tanks and Vehicles from Chojnice to Czarne

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[redacted] flat cars were utilized to transport tanks, SP guns and vehicles from the regimental caserne at Chojnice to the training area at Czarne. Troops traveled on regular passenger trains which were reserved for troops.

(1) Tanks

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[redacted] only one JS-2 tank or 122 mm SP gun was loaded on one unknown-size car. The gun barrel was always faced to the rear of the train; tank threads were loosened slightly and blocked with wooden blocks; and steel cable was used in a criss-cross fashion to secure the front and rear ends of the tank to the flat car.

(2) AAA

Two or three light AA guns of the regiment AAA Btry, of an unknown size, were normally loaded on one unknown size flat car and secured with wire cable to the car.

(3) Other Vehicles

When loading motor vehicles, three trucks of unknown size were loaded on two flat cars. The center vehicle rested on both flat cars. All motor vehicles were blocked with wooden blocks and secured with steel cable similar to the tanks.

(4) Loading Facilities

At both Chojnice and Czarne, concrete, permanent-type ramps normally found at railroad sidings were used when loading tanks and vehicles. Source thought that the tanks were side-loaded but was hazy on this point. He never saw portable type ramps being used in loading or unloading of tanks or other vehicles.

2. Hv Tk Bn and Armd Arty Bn Training

a. At Chojnice

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[redacted] the Hv Tk Bn's daily training consisted of practical driving of tanks and vehicles, attending political lectures, preliminary marksmanship training, map reading, constructions of various tank obstacles, camouflage of tanks, care and cleaning of equipment, tank maintenance, chemical training, operation of signal equipment and theoretical and practical training on platoon and company-level tank tactics.

(1) Range Firing

During February 1953, the Hv Tk Bn, together with the Armd Arty Bn of the 41st Armd Arty Regt, was sent by troop train to Czarne for approximately eight days. There, actual firing was conducted with JS-2 heavy tanks, 122 mm SP guns and the secondary armament machine guns. All tank and gun crews of both battalions participated. Afterwards, both battalions returned to Chojnice. All firing exercises were observed by the commander and staff of the 16th Mecz Div and 41st Armd Arty Regt.

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[redacted] only two unit JS-2 heavy tanks of the Hv

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Tk Bn plus two 122 mm SP guns of the Armd Arty Bn were taken to Czarne. Only these two tanks and two SP guns were utilized and rotated among the gun crews during marksmanship training.

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[redacted] on command of the tank and/or SP gun commander, each tank and SP gun crew fired about four rounds from short halts, under a time limit of about two minutes per round. Tank mounted machine gun firing was conducted from short halts at towed movable targets in the form of silhouettes, which were at a distance of about 400 m. Each crew member fired several short bursts at these silhouette targets.

Targets were constructed from wood to resemble bunkers. These bunkers appeared from the firing points to measure about 180 x 250 cm. and were placed on the forward slope of a hill and partially camouflaged with twigs and branches. The range from the tanks and SP guns during firing was estimated at one kilometer.

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[redacted] each gun and tank crew was rated on its driving ability and marksmanship proficiency [redacted] Driving ability was judged on the way in which crews approached targets preparatory to firing.

(2) CP Exercise

One CP battalion-level exercise lasting about eight hours was conducted at Chojnice. All officers of the Hv Tk Bn participated in the exercise, which involved both simulated offensive and defensive platoon-level tactics. [redacted] during the exercise, each officer prepared overlays from maps showing the simulated defensive disposition of his tank platoon in a wooded area against an enemy infantry regiment being supported by tanks.

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During theoretical offensive problems against enemy infantry units supported by tanks, platoon leaders prepared map overlays of the positions they had selected for conducting an offensive movement for tank support of a simulated infantry regiment.

The overlays and decisions made by platoon leaders and company commanders during the exercise were reviewed and critiqued by the Hv Tk Bn's commander and staff officers.

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[redacted] the purpose of this CP exercise was to test the platoon leaders and company commanders on their ability to adopt appropriate offensive and defensive measures against enemy infantry units which were being supported by tanks. It also tested their ability to properly coordinate tank and infantry units and to select defensive positions and routes of attack from maps.

b. At Czarne

During tactical tank training at Czarne, each company consistently used one tank which was designated as being for "exploitation" use. The Hv Tk Bn had about seven of these "exploitation" tanks, and only these were utilized for training and driving instructions. The rest of the battalion's tanks were designated as "conservation"

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tanks and could not be used for training and/or tactical exercise without written authority from the commander of the 16th Mecz Div, the Military District Commander, or the Armored Services Branch of the Ministry of National Defense. [redacted] the purpose 50X1 behind designating tanks and/or SP guns for "exploitation" and "conservation" was that most of the tanks and SP guns were stored and preserved from the wear and damage which normally resulted from training use.

During training, crews of "conserved" tanks rode on vehicles and either simulated tanks or observed from vehicles the tactical training being conducted by one or several battalion "exploitation" tanks. Occasionally tank crews were rotated during training, but they still used the same tanks.

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[redacted] company's training as consisting of a tank platoon in defense in a wooded area; in offensive movements in wooded areas, on open terrain, in villages and in ambush; crossing streams and bridges; and conducting preliminary marksmanship training from short halts or from a camouflaged position.

c. Chemical Training

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[redacted], all chemical training amounted to several hours and was limited to familiarization with the Shlem-1 gas mask. He had practiced donning the gas mask and learned the names of the parts and the mask's effectiveness against some toxic agents such as mustard, lewisite, adamsite, chloropicrin and tear gases. The EM of the Hv Tk Bn were instructed to remove their head gear and to hold their individual weapons, if armed with carbines, between their knees before donning the gas mask.

d. Signal Training⁴.

All radio personnel belonging to tank and SP gun crews were frequently given training on the operation of 10-RK-26 tank radio sets.

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[redacted] during signal tactical training, all Hv Tk Bn tanks and Armd Arty Bn SP guns used code names. [redacted] regiment usually used bird names as code names.

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Company and higher echelon commanders frequently used a collective code name when they wanted the attention of subordinate tank commanders. Source recalled that the collective code names frequently used represented some well-known geographical features such as a river, forest, large city or prominent landmark, which were often connected with their current location. Such a collective code name was changed at least once a day, depending on how often it was used and the length of the tactical training. Thus, the regimental, battalion, company or platoon COs could, in theory, communicate with all subordinate tanks in their respective units if they so desired.

Although coordinated tactical tank-air training was not conducted, source knew that the Polish Air Force used words like "lightning" and/or "thunder" as code names.

During tactical training, all 10-RK-26 radios of the tank company were tuned in on the same frequency. Battalion and regimental commanders, however, had two radios installed in their tanks and could

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communicate with subordinate echelons on one frequency and with higher echelons on another frequency.

50X1 [] every tank had a radio. In addition, each tank carried a flare pistol with 12 colored flares and a set of signal flags. Instructions for the use of these rockets and signal flags were changed with each tactical training exercise. However, rockets were never actually used by the crews at any time.

50X1 [] the tank company radios operated only on one frequency, but each tank company had an alternate frequency. It was permitted to operate on this only when ordered to do so by the company commander or in the event of a compromise of the first frequency.

A subordinate tank commander was permitted to address his immediate superior at any time but was forbidden to communicate with other tanks of the same unit. As an example, [] if a tank commander saw an enemy tank on the flank of his platoon, he was to call the platoon commander by radio and inform him of the situation. However, all tank radios would theoretically also be tuned to the same frequency; thus, all tank operators would receive the same message and be prepared to act on any command received from the platoon leader. 50X1

Each tank radio operator maintained a log or journal, in which were noted the calls sent and/or received, the operating and alternate radio frequencies and two call signs and code names. Source could not recall any further detailed information on this radio log.

3. Training in Other Regimental Units

a. AT Btry and AAA Btry Training

50X1 [] the AT and AAA Batteries of the 41st Armd Arty Regt conducted marksmanship training at an unknown area in the vicinity of Slupsk for about eight days. 50X1

[] targets consisted of wooden structures which resembled landing craft and that over-water firing was conducted at an unknown point near the Baltic Sea. He had no further information on this type of firing.

From personal observation, source also knew that the AT and AAA batteries departed from Czarne to conduct training from May 1953 to September 1953 at some unknown location other than Czarne, the area where they were then permanently stationed.

b. Engineer Unit Training

From personal observation, source knew that the engineer platoon of the 41st Armd Arty Regt, although permanently stationed at Czarne, was at Zlocieniec (Falkenburg N 53-32, E 16-00) for training from May to September 1953. The training area at Zlocieniec was considered to be better for engineer units since it contained many small lakes and was ideal for construction of various types of bridges. He had no further information on this type of training within the regiment and its subordinate units.

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C. Tank and Equipment Demonstration Given by 16th Mecz Div

1. Tanks

50X1 During 1953, [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] a one-day tank and equipment demonstration sponsored by the 16th Mecz Div at Czarne. The demonstration was held for the purpose of acquainting Division officers with the various types of tanks, their capabilities, and the other equipment found in Polish armored units. Source attended the demonstration but limited his interests to tanks and particularly to the Polish version of the T34 medium tank, which, the lecturer stated, was being produced in Poland.

2. Chemical Warfare Equipment

Source also observed a chemical display where he saw an unknown type of instrument, which was to be used by chemical units to indicate and measure wind direction and velocity prior to the use of toxic agents. However, he could not describe the instrument. The display also included several rubberized types of unidentified protective coveralls, aprons, boots and gloves, which were to be used by chemical squads during decontamination of small arms, vehicles and tanks. No further information.

Source recalled the chemical lecturer speaking on the recognition of toxic agents by their odor and color. In addition, an unknown number of small bottles were displayed, containing colored liquids which supposedly represented the colors of various types of gases in liquid form. Source, however, could not recall any further details on the toxic agents nor their colors. He had no further information on chemical training.

3. Joint-Polish-Soviet Maneuvers

Source never observed or heard of any joint Soviet-Polish training and/or maneuvers.

D. Unit Supply and Maintenance in the 41st Armd Arty Regt 6.

1. Reserves and Storage

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[redacted] source observed Regimental storage buildings containing supplies such as POL, uniforms, clothing, gas masks and chemical equipment, food, small arms ammunition, 12.7 mm AA machine guns, tank and SP gun, radios and equipment, and tank batteries. Company supply rooms were utilized for storage of 7.62 mm machine guns for tanks. The levels of these supplies were not known to source.

Source did not observe or believe that a reserve supply of tanks, SP guns and vehicles as such was maintained at the Regimental areas. However, roughly 80 per cent of those tanks, SP guns and vehicles regularly assigned to subordinate units of the regiments were stored as "conserved" material; and only 20 per cent were used daily as "exploitation" vehicles. Storage was at each battalion's vehicle and/or tank park, which could be a barbed wire-fenced area or a large building located near the unit.

2. Issue Procedures

Whenever equipment and/or supplies of any nature were needed, company

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commanders submitted written requisitions for the necessary items to the Regimental commander for approval. This approval was required prior to the items' issue by the Regimental supply sections.

50X1 [] about five hours would be required for the 41st Armd Arty Regt to draw the necessary items of armament, equipment and supplies from various storage points and be prepared for combat action. 50X1 [] during such emergency preparations, tank and SP gun crews would draw the following items from the Regimental storage points: (1) radios (to be installed in both the "conserved" tanks and "exploitation" tanks needing additional equipment); (2) 12.7 mm AA MGs (to be mounted on tanks and SP guns); (3) two batteries (to be installed one in each tank); (4) POL supplies particularly oil, (to pour into the engines of "conserved" tanks, which were normally kept drained); and (5) water and anti-freeze (to service the radiators if necessary). Crews would warm all engines and check their performance, test and compare radio operational frequencies with other tanks of his unit, and draw the necessary 7.62 mm machine guns and ammunition drums from the company supply rooms and mount them on the tanks. Hand grenades and flare pistols plus cartridges were drawn from the Regimental ammunition storage point as the last of the required items.

50X1 [] during one such practice, there seemed to be a great deal of confusion, and the entire process of drawing armament and supplies appeared to be very disorganized. Supply personnel seemed to be inadequate and some of the tank crews failed to remember the appropriate issue numbers of their tanks or equipment and armament. These numbers had to be repeated to the supply personnel in order to draw equipment.

3. Units of Fire for Tank Secondary Weapons and Individual Small Arms 9.

50X1 [] the unit of fire for the tank mounted 7.62 mm machine guns amounted to five drums of ammunition, with each drum containing 35 rounds. The unit of fire for 7.62 mm carbine, M1944, was estimated at 15 rounds and that for the 7.62 mm Tokarev pistol at about 16 rounds.

Each JS-2 heavy tank carried four fuel tanks, each having a capacity of 250 liters. Two of them contained engine fuel, one contained engine oil and one contained water or anti-freeze depending on the season.

4. POL Supply Procedures

50X1 [] the tanks and SP guns [] used a fuel 50X1 called "Gazol", which he believed to be diesel oil. In appearance, the fuel had the color of tea and was somewhat lighter than lubricating oil.

50X1 [] fuel arrived at the Regimental caserne and at the training areas by rail and that it came in 200 l metal drums which were painted gray and marked with unidentified Russian writing.

50X1 [] POL tank rail cars at railroad sidings and 50X1 [] this type of rail car was also utilized to ship fuel [] all POL supplies [] came from the USSR because of the Russian markings on the drums. 50X1

The regiment used its own ordinary trucks to pick up the fuel drums at the railroad. The trucks delivered them to the Regimental fuel dump and to the tank battalion's fuel dump.

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Source had no knowledge of the quantity of fuel that would represent a tank battalion refill. However, [redacted] a JS-2 tank could travel from 250 to 350 km, the distance depending upon the terrain, on the vehicles three tanks' of diesel fuel. 50X1

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[redacted] each tank crew refueled its tank at the Battalion tank park before parking it. Fuel was pumped into the tank's fuel tanks directly from the fuel drums, with the aid of a hand pump which was fitted onto the fuel drum. Authorization forms were neither required nor used for refueling a tank. He could give no further information on the refill data of the Armored Arty Bn or travel data on SP guns.

Source had observed several large POL tank trucks, the exact size of which was unknown, at the Regimental fuel dump. He believed that these vehicles were used to transport POL supplies from the railroad to the regimental fuel dump. He did not know to what unit the vehicles belonged however.

Source had no further knowledge on petroleum supply procedures nor did he know how the battalion estimated future requirements of POL supplies.

- 50X1 1. See [redacted] for the organizational structure of the Regiment and
50X1 [redacted] for a sketch of the Regiment caserne area and descriptions of its buildings and installations.
- 50X1 2. See [redacted] for another report mentioning a tank repair factory.
- 50X1 3. See [redacted] for field exercises at the Military District level which were known to source.
- 50X1 4. See [redacted] for the types and characteristics of signal equipment which was known to source.
5. See [redacted] for all details on this tank which were known to source.
- 50X1 6. See [redacted] for additional information on tank maintenance [redacted] 50X1
- 50X1 7. See [redacted] for the location and description of these installations as known to source.
- 50X1 8. [redacted] Comment: All information known to source concerning descriptions and quantities of uniforms, clothing and individual equipment, issued to officers and EM will be published in a subsequent report
50X1 [redacted]
- 50X1 9. See [redacted] for information known to source on ammunition for major tank weapons.

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